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Message Text

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67
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NSCE-00 DRC-01 NIC-01 /091 W
---------- 049045
R 270815Z JUN 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2011
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: PEKING POSTERS AIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST SYSTEM

1. MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF POSTERS TO APPEAR IN PEKING IN PAST COUPLE OF DAYS HAS BEEN EXPOSURE OF STRONG PERSONAL GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE SYSTEM AND THE AUTHORITIES. MOST HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE PARTY CENTRAL TO INFORM THEM OF PERVERSIONS OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT THE WEIGHT OF THE INDICTMENT IS AGAINST POLICE-STATE METHODS AND THE MESSAGE IS A PLEA FOR MORE FREEDOM.

2. A COUPLE OF POSTERS HAVE DESCRIBED BRUTALITY IN PRC PRISONS AND SEEMINGLY SENSELESS TORTURE METED OUT TO PERSONS WHO COMMITTED MINOR POLITICAL DEVIATION. A SZECHUAN POSTER WRITER WHO HAS BEEN FIGHTING THE SYSTEM SINCE HE LOST HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP IN 1958 DENOUNCES ILLEGAL POLICE ACTIVITIES BOTH IN AND OUT OF PRISONS AND MAKES AN OPEN PLEA TO THE PARTY CENTER, CHAIRMAN MAO, AND THE STATE COUNCIL FOR MORE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL IN CHINA. LIKE SOME EARLIER POSTER WRITERS, THIS MAN CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN GIVEN NO
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MONEY TO LIVE ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND HAS BEEN REDUCED TO BEGGING TO SUPPORT HIS LARGE FAMILY.

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3. A POSTER APPEARING YESTERDAY CARRIED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT
COMPLAINT BUT IT AGAIN MADE A PLEA AGAINST HOUNDING BY THE
AUTHORITIES. THE WRITER SAID HIS SISTER HAD BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF
HAVING ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER MEMBER OF HER BRIGADE.
SHE WAS SUPPOSEDLY PRESSURED BY THE AUTHORITIES UNTIL DRIVEN
TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY THROWING HERSELF UNDER A TRAIN.

4. THERE ALSO HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT
HARASSMENT OF AUTHORS OF THE POSTERS NOW BEING DISPLAYED.
TWO WOMEN POSTER WRITERS COMPLAINED THAT THEY HAD ATTEMPTED
TO PUT UP A POSTER YESTERDAY ON THE GATE OF THE COMPOUND
DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE
HEADQUARTERS. THEIR POSTER WAS TORN DOWN, THEY WERE STRUCK
BY MEN SUPPOSEDLY SENT BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, POLICE CAME OVER
TO CURSE THEM, AND, IN A FINAL INDIGNITY, A FIRE HOSE WAS
BROUGHT UP TO SOAK THEM BOTH AND THEIR POSTERS.

AUTHORS NOTED SARCASTICALLY THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW THE GATE,
WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE POSTER ACTIVITY, LED TO A SWIMMING
AND RECREATIONAL CLUB FOR LEADING MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE
(THE BUILDING IS THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL CLUB). THEY ALSO CLAIMED
TO HAVE BEEN HARASSED BY POLICE AT A NEARBY INTERSECTION AS THEY
WERE GOING ON THEIR WAY. (TO SHOW THEIR CONTINUED EFIANCE,
THE WRITERS PUT THEIR NEW POSTER IN THE CENTER OF THE CLUB GATE BESIDE

A WARNING SIGN SAYING NOT TO PUT THEM THERE.)

5. COMMENT: THESE POSTERS, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR A FAIR
PERCENTAGE OF THOSE SEEN, HAVE MUCH THE SAME APPEAL AS TABLOID
NEWSPAPERS IN THE WEST. CROWDS ARE FREQUENTLY LARGEST AROUND THOSE
WITH THE MOST LURID STORIES.
HOLDRIDGE

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Executive Order: N/A
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